



## Sam Tjengala Reuben Award recognising Young Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year 2026

This document lists the questions and word limits to assist you in preparing the submission prior to completing it online. You will also be required to upload company logos, photos and / or documents. You may start the online nomination at any time and update or amend it prior to **11:59pm AEDT, Sunday 22 March 2026**.

**Nominations must be completed and submitted via the online Awards platform:** [awards.supplynation.org.au](https://awards.supplynation.org.au)  
**Submissions will not be accepted via any other method.**

Note: if an individual or organisation won an award in 2024 or 2025, they are **not** eligible to be nominated for the same category in 2026.

### Category Description and Criteria

This award recognises a young Indigenous entrepreneur who has successfully brought their business idea to fruition, can demonstrate the potential for significant growth in the years to come, and has demonstrated ongoing engagement with Supply Nation and / or its members and Indigenous suppliers.

#### The winner will:

- Identify as an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander person under 35 years old as of 1 December 2025.
- Be the owner and founder / co-founder of a business listed on Indigenous Business Direct that has been in operation for at least one year as of 1 January 2026 (i.e. from 1 January 2025 or earlier).
- Demonstrate business acumen and growth.
- Identify and meet a need / gap in the market.
- Demonstrate commitment to building a prosperous, vibrant and sustainable Indigenous business sector.

## Context Questions

Please note: these questions are not scored by our judging panel but do provide them with valuable context about the nominee.

1. Nominee's date of birth.
2. Nominee's role.
3. Nominee's biography (outline their professional career highlights). **30 words max.**
4. Tell us about the nominee. (Describe the individual / business you are nominating, what it does, their key goals or objectives, and / or vision or values) **100 words max.**
5. When was the nominee listed on Indigenous Business Direct? (Please provide the month and year)
6. Is the nominee a Certified Supplier? (If yes, provide the date of the certification)

## Criteria Questions

Please note: these questions are scored by our judging panel and have been developed to align with the category criteria as set out on the first page.

1. Explain the nominee's vision / aspiration. Give specific examples of plans for continued growth. **200 words max.**
2. What steps has the nominee taken to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of their business in the face of economic or industry challenges? **150 words max.**
3. What key milestones or achievements has the nominee / business accomplished since its inception, and how have these demonstrated growth? **150 words max.**
4. Provide specific examples of how the nominee has evolved or adapted to meet market demands or challenges? **150 words max.**
5. How did the nominee identify the need or gap in the market that their business addresses, and what steps did they take to meet that need? **200 words max.**
6. How has the nominee engaged with Indigenous communities in the creation and development of the business, and how does the business reflect Indigenous values and culture? **150 words max.**
7. How does the nominee contribute to the sustainability of the Indigenous business sector?  
**200 words max.**
8. What steps has the nominee taken to increase engagement with Supply Nation, its members and suppliers? **200 words max.**

## Upload Attachments

As part of this nomination, you must attach the files listed below. The maximum size is 5MB per file. The content you choose to upload will be used if the nominee is selected as a finalist.

1. Between one and four photos of the nominee and / or their team (high-resolution, at least 1MB and portrait orientation NOT landscape).
2. High-resolution logo of the nominee's business:
  - Full colour and black and white versions
  - Horizontal and vertical / stacked options
  - Preferred file type: vector (.ai or .eps), also accepted: .png, .jpg

## Good Luck

Nominations close at **11:59pm AEDT on Sunday 22 March 2026**. This date is final and there will be no extensions provided. You can amend the nomination, even after submitting it, up until this time.

Winners will be announced at the Connect 2026 Gala Awards Dinner on Wednesday 12 August at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Whadjuk Land. To stay up to date with announcements, visit the [Connect website](#) and follow our social channels.

If you have any questions, contact us at [connect@supplynation.org.au](mailto:connect@supplynation.org.au).